

Amendments to the Claims:

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~controlling a card reader which takes in a card~~ having preventing fraudulent use of data read from a magnetic stripe of a card at a card ~~insertion port and reads data recorded on said magnetic stripe by a magnetic head, the method~~ comprising:

reading data recorded on the magnetic stripe by a magnetic head;

saving ~~said data read~~ the read data for data transmission to a higher level apparatus;

and

starting a timer for detecting elapsing of a given time period, the given time period being determined so as to prevent fraudulent use of the read data;

waiting for authorization for data transmission of the saved data to the higher level apparatus; and

after starting the timer, when the saved data is not transmitted to the higher level apparatus within the given time period, making the , wherein said saved data is made unavailable for reading after a given time elapses, wherein the given time is determined to prevent fraudulent use of the data.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~controlling a card reader which takes a card~~ having preventing fraudulent use of data read from a magnetic stripe of a card at a card ~~insertion port into a card reader and reads data recorded on said magnetic stripe by a~~ magnetic head, the method comprising:

reading data recorded on the magnetic stripe by a magnetic head;

saving and editing ~~said data read~~ the read data for data transmission to a higher level apparatus;

starting a timer for detecting elapsing of a given time period, the given time period being determined so as to prevent fraudulent use of the read data;

waiting for authorization for data transmission of the saved and edited data to the higher level apparatus; and

after starting the timer, when the saved and edited data is not transmitted to the higher level apparatus within the given time period, making the saved and edited data , wherein said saved data and/or said edited data are/is made unavailable for reading after a given time elapses so as to prevent fraudulent use of the data.

9-11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the step of making the saved data unavailable for reading includes deleting the saved data.

13. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the step of making the saved data unavailable for reading includes changing a flag which makes the saved data either available or unavailable for reading.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of changing a flag includes turning off the flag which makes the saved data available for reading.

15. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of making the saved and edited data unavailable for reading includes deleting the saved and edited data.

16. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of making the saved and edited data unavailable for reading includes changing a flag which makes the saved and edited data either available or unavailable for reading.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the step of changing a flag includes turning off the flag which makes the saved and edited data available for reading.

18. (New) A method of preventing fraudulent use of data read from a magnetic stripe of a magnetic card by a card reader, the method comprising:

reading data recorded on the magnetic stripe by a magnetic head located within the card reader for data transmission to a higher level apparatus, the magnetic card not being a part of the card reader;

saving the read data;

after the data is read, starting a timer in the card reader for a given time period, the given time period being determined so as to prevent fraudulent use of the data read from the magnetic stripe; and

if the timer lapses, making the saved data unavailable for reading.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the step of making the saved data unavailable for reading includes deleting the saved data.

20. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the step of making the saved data unavailable for reading includes changing a flag which makes the saved data either available or unavailable for reading.